# Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT  05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO:        Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
           Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM:      John Pandiani and Monica Simon

DATE:      November 7, 2003

RE:        Comparing Measures of Criminal Justice Involvement

This week's report was prepared in response to a request from the National Data Infrastructure Grant Outcome Work Group for comparisons of different measures of criminal justice involvement for mental health service recipients.  Five measures of criminal justice involvement for all adults admitted to community mental health programs in Vermont during CY 2002 are compared.  Four measures are based on the analysis of administrative databases obtained from criminal justice agencies.  One measure of criminal justice involvement is based on the results of a problem assessment conducted by a clinician or intake worker at the time of admission. Results indicate that there are substantial differences between different types of criminal justice involvement as measured using criminal justice data sets.   Results of clinical problem assessments of criminal justice involvement were similar to results of analysis of administrative data.
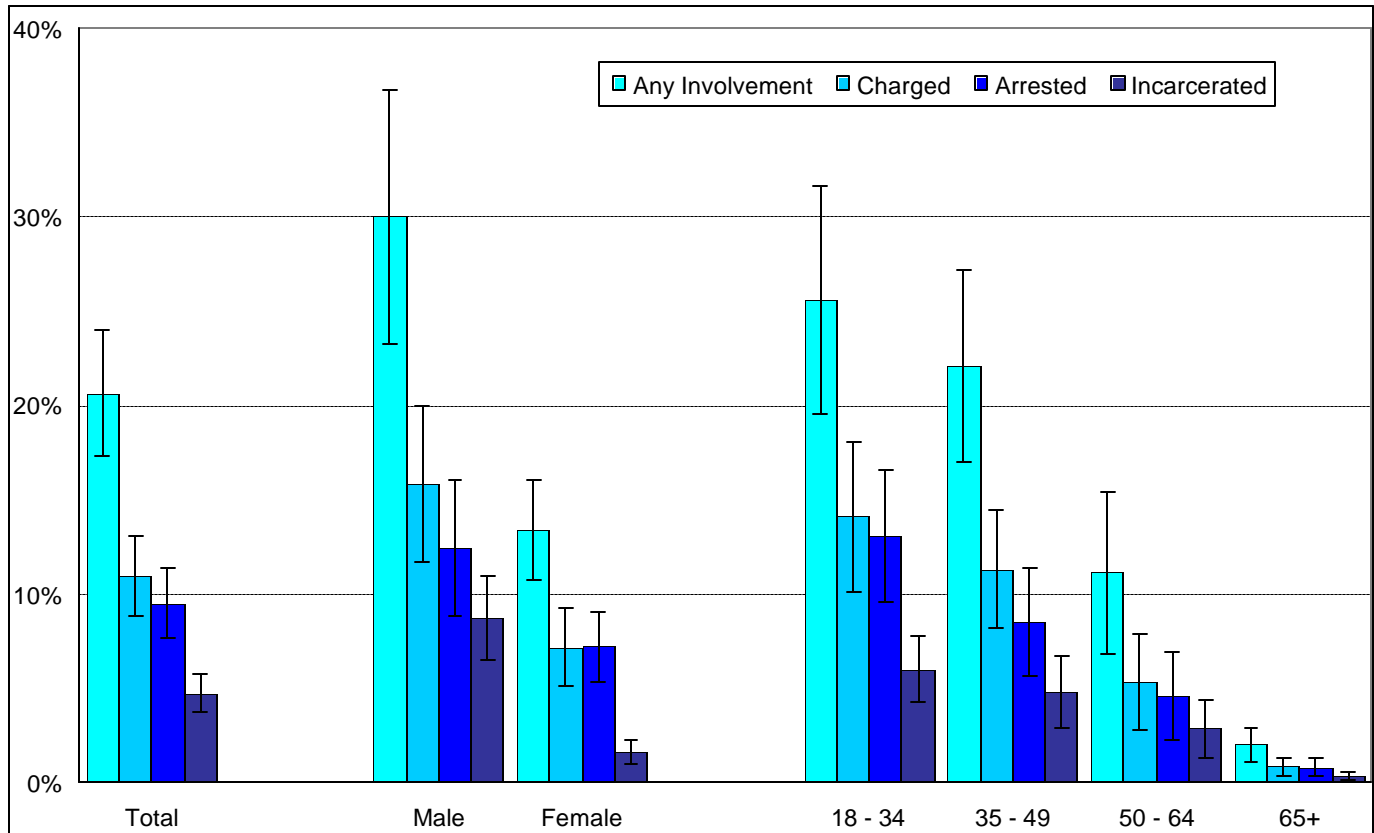
This analysis relied exclusively on existing administrative data sets.  No special purpose data collection was involved.  The mental health data set used in this analysis is an extract from the monthly service report data set submitted to the Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services by designated community mental health programs.  The data set used in this analysis included the date of birth and gender of each person admitted to treatment during calendar year 2002, and the response to the problem assessment item "Involvement with criminal justice assessment: (yes, no, or assessment not conducted)".  Data sets provided by the Department of Corrections included the date of birth and gender for all individuals incarcerated and all individuals on probation or parole during calendar year 2001.  A data set provided by the State Police included the date of birth, gender, and criminal charge for all individuals arrested by any Vermont police force during calendar year 2001.  Finally, a data set provided by the Vermont Center for Justice Research included the date of birth, gender and criminal charge for all individuals charged with a crime in a Vermont District Court during calendar 2001.  For purposes of analysis, an additional data set of any criminal justice involvement was created by merging all of the criminal justice data sets described above. Because these data sets did not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of individuals from the mental health data set who were represented in each of the criminal justice data sets.

As you will see, the rate at which mental health service recipients were arrested and charged with a crime tended to be similar (9% and 11%, respectively). Both of these rates were substantially higher than the incarceration rate (5%). Both were also substantially lower than the rate of any criminal justice involvement (21%) including probation and parole in addition to the above categories. Male service recipients with criminal justice involvement were much more likely to be incarcerated than female service recipients (30% vs. 13%).

Overall criminal justice involvement as measured by administrative data sets was significantly larger than overall criminal justice involvement as measured by the intake problem assessment (21% vs. 17%). This was also true for women (13% vs. 10%). Among older service recipients, the problem assessment identified significantly more people with criminal justice involvement based on the intake problem assessment than the administrative data sets (1% vs. 3%).

We also look forward to your questions, comments about the findings reported here and your suggestions for further analysis of these data. As always, you can reach us at pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.
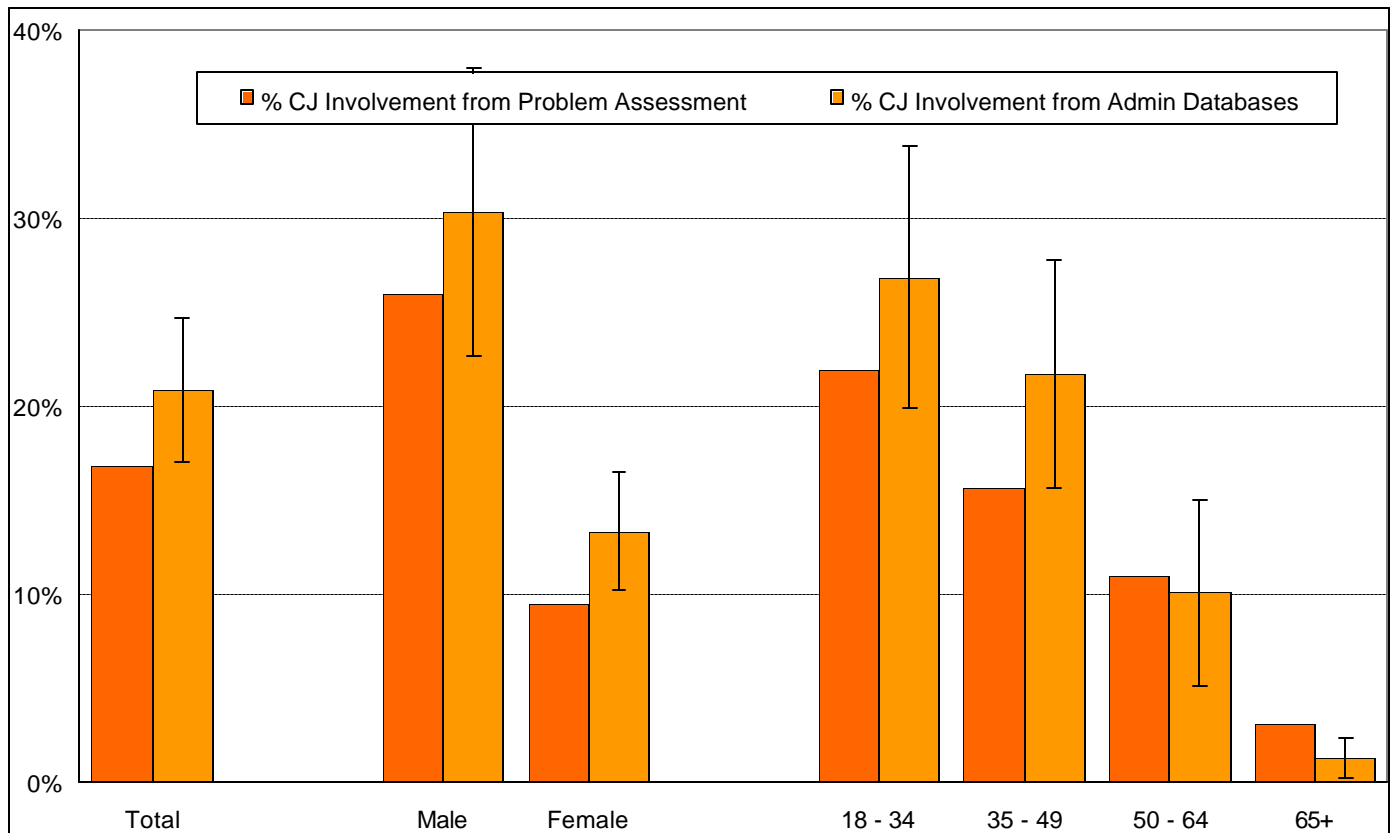
# Four Measures of Criminal Justice Involvement
## Adults Admitted to a Community Mental Health Program
## Vermont: CY 2002



|  | Number Admitted | Percent Any Involvement | Percent Charged | Percent Arrested | Percent Incarcerated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 6,194 ± 40 | 21% ± 3% | 11% ± 2% | 9% ± 2% | 5% ± 1% |
| Male | 2,714 ± 25 | 30% ± 7% | 16% ± 4% | 12% ± 4% | 9% ± 2% |
| Female | 3,476 ± 32 | 13% ± 3% | 7% ± 2% | 7% ± 2% | 2% ± 1% |
| 18 - 34 | 2,893 ± 31 | 26% ± 6% | 14% ± 4% | 13% ± 3% | 6% ± 2% |
| 35 - 49 | 2,017 ± 23 | 22% ± 5% | 11% ± 3% | 8% ± 3% | 5% ± 2% |
| 50 - 64 | 735 ± 9 | 11% ± 4% | 5% ± 3% | 5% ± 2% | 3% ± 2% |
| 65+ | 548 ± 5 | 2% ± 1% | 1% ± 0% | 1% ± 0% | 0% ± 0% |

Analysis is based on extracts from the State mental health MIS database and data provided by Vermont's State Police, Department of Corrections, and Center for Justice Research. The State mental health clients include all adults admitted to a mental health program who were 18 years of age or over during calendar year 2002. Incarcerated includes all individuals who have spent at least one night in a state prison or local jail. Arrested includes all individuals who have been taken into custody. Charged includes all individuals who have been charged with a crime in Vermont district court. Any involvement includes all individuals on probation and parole as well as those arrested, charged with a crime, or incarcerated during calendar year 2001. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to estimate the unduplicated number of people in each data set and the unduplicated number of people shared across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).

# Administrative Data Compared to Clinical Data
## Criminal Justice Involvement
## Adults Admitted to a Community Mental Health Program in Vermont: CY 2002



| | Total #<br>Admitted | Completed Problem Assessment | | Criminal Justice Involvement<br>% from | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | # | % w/ Data | Problem Assessment | CJ Admin Databases |
| Total | 6,194 + 40 | 4,314 + 32 | 70% | 17% | 21% + 4% |
| Male | 2,714 + 25 | 1,914 + 20 | 71% | 26% | 30% + 8% |
| Female | 3,476 ± 32 | 2,399 ± 25 | 69% | 10% | 13% ± 3% |
| 18 - 34 | 2,893 ± 31 | 1,983 ± 24 | 69% | 22% | 27% ± 7% |
| 35 - 49 | 2,017 ± 23 | 1,435 ± 18 | 71% | 16% | 22% ± 6% |
| 50 - 64 | 735 ± 9 | 515 ± 7 | 70% | 11% | 10% ± 5% |
| 65+ | 548 ± 5 | 380 ± 4 | 69% | 3% | 1% ± 1% |

Analysis is based on extracts from the State mental health MIS database and data provided by Vermont's State Police, Department of Corrections, and Center for Justice Research. The State mental health clients includes all adults admitted to a mental health program who were 18 years of age or over during calendar year 2002. The problem assessment for criminal justice involvement is based on the problem checklist completed by clinicians at intake. The administrative data sets include all adults on probation and parole as well as those arrested, charged with a crime, or incarcerated during calendar year 2001. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to estimate the unduplicated number of people in each data set and the unduplicated number of people shared across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).